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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Discussion on the special theme for the year: "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Human rights: (a) implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (b) dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other special rapporteurs

Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

Reports received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The summaries of the reports submitted by 12 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations are included in the present note as part of the overall reports received by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The complete reports are available on the Permanent Forum website (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html).

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I. Introduction

1. As at 26 January 2010, written submissions to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been received from 12 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, namely the African Development Bank, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The African Development Bank sent a communication to the Permanent Forum for the first time.

2. The report of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be considered under item 6, "Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds", and has been issued in full as a document of the session. The present note contains a summary of the contributions by other organizations that are not taking part in the dialogue under item 6. The full text of these contributions has been posted on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html).

II. African Development Bank

3. Although none of the African Development Bank's policies address indigenous people in particular, the Bank has a number of social and environmental policies that apply to all of its operations, including public and private sector projects and policy-based lending. They are designed to promote environmental sustainability and ensure that the Bank's projects "do no harm" to people or the environment. Relevant policies have been adopted on cooperation with civil society organizations, population, gender and agriculture and rural development.

III. Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs

4. At its eighth session, the Permanent Forum noted the importance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in providing the legal framework for the Arctic Ocean. In its annual resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly has reaffirmed that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. There are currently 160 parties to the Convention, including the European Union.

IV. European Union

5. The European Commission has undertaken a number of measures to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in both the member and non-member States of the European Union. Internally, the European Union has established a legal framework to contribute to the protection of its own indigenous populations, including through provisions to fight discrimination, racism and xenophobia, and has also launched financial programmes to support activities aimed at combating specific instances of these phenomena.

6. With regard to external relations, the principles of European Union engagement with indigenous peoples are applied in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. An internal mechanism within the European Commission ensures the coordination of activities related to indigenous peoples carried out by various Commission services and raises the profile of indigenous peoples' issues in the overall development agenda of the European Union. The specific approaches taken by the European Union include: raising indigenous issues in its bilateral human rights dialogues with third countries; seeking to bring indigenous issues into the mainstream of European Union development cooperation strategies; and raising awareness of indigenous issues among European Commission staff, predominantly through the internal quality support process and staff training. In addition, the European Commission is directly supporting civil society organizations working on indigenous issues, in particular through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

V. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

7. In 2009, FAO continued to engage with indigenous peoples through its activities related to, inter alia, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, nutrition, developments in animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, fisheries and capacity-building. FAO also undertakes activities focused on the land rights of indigenous peoples and on communication for development. FAO is engaged in ongoing activities involving indigenous peoples in most regions. A desk study on projects and programmes in Latin America has been carried out and detailed data are now available for that region. FAO has also been involved in capacity-building initiatives, such as regional training workshops with indigenous peoples, and has also carried out capacity-building activities for FAO staff members. In 2009, FAO participated in a number of conferences on indigenous peoples.

8. In 2009, FAO finalized a draft policy of engagement with indigenous and tribal peoples and, in 2010, its Working Group on Indigenous Issues is moving forward by seeking clearance of the policy, strengthening its collaboration with indigenous peoples and creating strategic mechanisms to implement the policy in member countries and at FAO.

9. FAO emphasizes the concept of "development with culture and identity", which will be the special theme of the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, in all its areas of work involving indigenous peoples, while aiming to develop and apply a holistic approach. In particular, FAO emphasizes the role of culture in sustaining

food and agroecological systems, and thereby community health, development and well-being, in its Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems initiative and in its work on developing cultural indicators for indigenous peoples' food and agroecological systems.

VI. International Fund for Agricultural Development

10. In 2009, IFAD reached an important milestone in its work with indigenous peoples, with the approval, by its Executive Board, of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. During the course of the year, the Fund continued its strong partnership with the Permanent Forum and volunteered as one of the six United Nations agencies and funds to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with the Forum during its eighth session held in May. The Fund also maintained its active role in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

11. As part of its efforts to maintain a high level of engagement and commitment with indigenous peoples in developing countries, IFAD approved 12 projects in supporting indigenous peoples through loans and grants totalling $114 million in eight countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. IFAD also approved three global/regional grants, specifically formulated to support indigenous peoples, for a total amount of $1.5 million. An additional 17 grants approved by the Fund targeted indigenous peoples as part of a larger beneficiary group of rural people living in poverty. Through a learning-by-doing approach and with the objective of disseminating information and knowledge, IFAD compiled information on the experiences of the first two rounds of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility and produced a report, entitled "Learning by working together: microprojects funded under the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, IPAF", which will be available on the IFAD website in early 2010.

VII. International Labour Organization

12. In its submission to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, ILO outlined the main activities of a number of its projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues during 2009 and highlighted the substantive areas of its ongoing work on indigenous issues. The report contains a compilation of information and inputs relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples from different ILO programmes.

13. Through its project to promote ILO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples (PRO 169) within its technical cooperation programme, ILO has worked to promote and implement the rights of indigenous peoples on a global scale and improve their socio-economic situation. ILO efforts in this regard have included the continued provision of technical contributions to international processes to promote indigenous peoples' rights, including through its participation in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues; the completion of a three-year research project on the situation of indigenous peoples in Africa, which culminated with a comprehensive overview report, adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in May 2009; the launch of a regional programme in Latin America to further promote the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in the region; and the organization of a large regional conference on indigenous child labour, which will be held in Colombia in March 2010. In terms of national efforts to

promote the rights of indigenous peoples, ILO reported on initiatives in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia and Nepal.

14. Capacity-building is a key element of ILO efforts to promote and implement the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2009, ILO, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held realized training programmes at ILO headquarters for indigenous fellows in English, French, Russian and Spanish. ILO also conducted regional seminars in Asia and Africa, and capacity-building activities are ongoing in various countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

VIII. International Organization for Migration

15. IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to indigenous peoples' particular needs and are culturally appropriate. In 2009, IOM undertook activities on indigenous issues in countries including Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Thailand. IOM activities include providing training to assist indigenous victims of trafficking, setting up productive and social infrastructure projects, such as potable water systems, to support the indigenous populations; facilitating the "Finca sana" project in Costa Rica, the aim of which is to improve health and human development among indigenous migrant workers who travel to Costa Rica from Panama; providing assistance and protection to internally displaced persons, with a special emphasis on the protection of indigenous groups' territories; and providing programmes for ex-combatant children and indigenous families who have fallen victim to the violence in Colombia.

16. In 2009, IOM was particularly involved in indigenous peoples' issues in Colombia, where it carried out 29 projects that addressed indigenous issues. The IOM office in Colombia has developed and documented a cross-cutting guideline for its programmes, entitled "Strategy for responding to the needs of ethnic groups", which involves the recognition of the conditions and situation of different social actors, including indigenous peoples. In February 2009, the guide on "How to incorporate a differential focus for ethnic groups in programmes and projects" was revised and updated. The guide was prepared for internal and external project implementers, and in particular counterparts and operators, to promote and facilitate application of the strategy in the formulation, execution, follow-up and evaluation of projects with indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

IX. United Nations Children's Fund

17. In 2009, UNICEF continued to actively engage with indigenous peoples at the country and regional levels through various programmes and activities specifically designed to advance the rights of indigenous peoples, and projects ranging from bilingual and intercultural education and culturally sensitive health services to birth registration and the fight against violence, abuse and exploitation. UNICEF also provided technical assistance and conducted research on indigenous issues, and continued to seek increased participation of indigenous peoples in its policies and strategies.

18. UNICEF also continued to play an important role in ensuring that indigenous issues became prominent within the United Nations system, including through its participation in a training of trainers on indigenous peoples' issues, in June 2009. This workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of United Nations staff to provide training on how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and bring their rights and issues into the mainstream of development-related work at the country level.

19. UNICEF recently took stock of its work on indigenous issues at global, regional and country levels. The corresponding review covers three main subjects: (a) UNICEF's approach to working with indigenous children and women; (b) content and organizational arrangements of UNICEF's work in support of indigenous children and women at the regional and country levels; and (c) implementation of the approach in two programme/project case study sites (the Congo and Peru). The study will be used as a guide to develop a structured framework for UNICEF to address indigenous issues in its operational activities and was the foundation for discussions held during a consultation on indigenous peoples' and minorities' issues. The consultation led to the formulation of a road map and action proposal in the development of (a) a strategic framework/guidance note; (b) programme guidance; (c) knowledge management; and (d) involvement with international mechanisms on indigenous and minority issues.

X. Department of Public Information

20. The Department of Public Information assisted with the promotion of events and provided thorough coverage of issues and United Nations activities related to indigenous rights throughout 2009 using a variety of media outlets and platforms, including television, video, photo, print, radio and the Internet. The Department's coverage included a range of events, including the deliberations on indigenous issues of the Third Committee and the eighth session of the Permanent Forum. It also covered a wide range of issues, including protection of indigenous knowledge, human rights protection, water rights, ecotourism, natural resources, armed conflict and education. The Department assisted in the design and production of a comprehensive press kit for the launch, in January 2010, of the first-ever report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples, prepared by the Permanent Forum.

21. In 2009, the Department also worked to expand the reach and raise awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through a campaign to translate the text of the Declaration into additional languages, with priority given to indigenous languages. The Department has field offices in all of its seven regions, whose activities also included translation into non-official languages and dissemination of information materials, including the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. United Nations information centres in Bogotá, Canberra and Lima also provided assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people during his country visits.

XI. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

22. ECLAC reported on its progress towards the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Permanent Forum in 2009. Main activities in this regard have included advances in the disaggregation by ethnicity of data sources to better reflect the situation of indigenous peoples; the production of relevant studies, including on indigenous peoples' rights and living conditions and on the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women; and technical assistance to countries in the region for the production and analysis of information on indigenous peoples in national statistical systems. ECLAC has also conducted technical studies, issued policy recommendations and held international seminars on the use of statistical information, with emphasis on the area of health.

XII. World Food Programme

23. WFP provides assistance based on levels of food insecurity, and it is within this context that the Programme addresses indigenous issues. WFP has focused its food security programmes and activities on indigenous peoples in several regions. Through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and 14 country offices (involving the participation of national Governments), WFP is currently developing a regional proposal to locally produce fortified complementary foods using nutritional native foods that have traditionally been used by indigenous peoples for thousands of years. In the Congo, WFP is collaborating with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to implement school feeding projects to improve access to formal education among pygmy children. In India, WFP is working in several states with above-average levels of food insecurity and malnutrition to support poor and chronically food-insecure households in remote areas with limited access to markets, focusing on tribal communities that rely on declining natural resources and are vulnerable to natural disasters. WFP will help households to develop productive assets and resource management techniques to improve their income level and resilience.

24. WFP has also participated in a number of information-sharing meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples and/or United Nations organizations. For example, in 2009, WFP participated (as facilitator and presenter) in a training-of-trainers workshop for Latin American and Caribbean country teams on the right to food, in the context of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

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Discussion on the special theme for the year, "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Human rights: Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Report of the United Nations system in Ecuador

Summary

This report has been drawn up on the basis of contributions made by the agencies of the United Nations system in Ecuador against the background of the recommendations made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. This is the fifth joint report submitted to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations agencies in Ecuador.

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I. How has your United Nations country team contributed to advancing the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples mentioned below?

A. Promotion of non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects

1. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2014 was signed by the Government of Ecuador and the United Nations system in August 2009 after a two-year process of consultation with various institutions and organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations. UNDAF, the basis for United Nations system agencies' programming in Ecuador, focuses on five areas of cooperation: (a) the population's capacities, potentialities, quality of life and life expectancy; (b) production, employment, food sovereignty and supportive economic system; (c) environmental sustainability and risk management; (d) reform of the State, participation, justice and human rights; and (e) development, peace and border integration in the northern region. The cross-cutting themes of UNDAF are human rights, gender equity and interculturality.

2. In 2009, implementation began of the Development and Cultural Diversity to Reduce Poverty and Promote Social Inclusion Programme. This programme brings together the work of seven agencies in the United Nations system and is coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Its Government counterpart is the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage, which links several Government ministries and institutions at the central and local levels. The programme is national in scope and will operate in the provinces of Chimborazo, Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos, with financing that totals US $5.5 million over three years. The programme has three main areas: public policies, economic undertakings and the use of statistics in decision-making.

3. As part of that programme, the system supported the drafting of the Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion in consultation with and with the participation of different organizations of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples. Preparation of the plan was coordinated by the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and it was presented both nationally and in Sucumbíos, Chimborazo and Esmeraldas Provinces. In the light of the importance of this Plan, the President of the Republic issued Decree No. 60 which calls for its application as a national public policy, decreeing 365 days of combat against racism and racial discrimination and the construction of an intercultural society. The plan has been published and is an important public policy tool for reducing discrimination and racism.

4. In order to provide organizations of indigenous peoples in Ecuador with an opportunity for reflection, knowledge and exchange surrounding the progress, obstacles and challenges of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Secretariat of Peoples, Social Movements and Citizen Participation, in the framework of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, organized in coordination with the inter-agency intercultural

theme group and UNDP a national workshop to prepare for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Representatives of civil society, Government authorities and aid agencies participated in the workshop, which provided important inputs for Ecuador's delegation to the eighth session.

5. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), together with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, drafted a document systematizing indigenous peoples' justice systems. That document, which was distributed to and validated by the indigenous nationalities that participated in the study, will serve as an input for the preparation of a bill on coordination and cooperation between indigenous justice and ordinary law. Training modules in collective rights were also prepared for officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, National Police, Armed Forces and judges or prosecutors. In December 2009, an international workshop was held on the administration of indigenous justice and its coordination with ordinary law, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya.

6. The Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, implemented with the support of six United Nations agencies in Ecuador and coordinated by UNDP, and financed by the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, supported the Ministry of the Environment plan on precautionary measures for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples (Tagaeri and Taromenane). The plan involves assessment, policing and monitoring efforts and promotes alternative economic development projects and works that will improve the quality of life of the populations living in the areas of influence and territories of isolated indigenous peoples. The plan also promotes policies that will protect the physical and cultural integrity of isolated indigenous peoples, as well as their ancestral territories.

7. Supported by the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund "Towards an Integrated and Inclusive Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", a national seminar was organized on "Strengthening Political and Social Leaderships of Indigenous Youth in Ecuador for Human Development and the Construction of the Plurinational and Intercultural State" (the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID), the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador (CODENPE) and UNDP).

8. With the participation of 75 young men and women indigenous leaders from across the country, the seminar was organized to underscore the importance of youth leadership in processes to enhance participatory democracy and social change among the original nationalities and peoples of Ecuador.

9. The Ministry of Education and its National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have proposed an educational initiative for nine Amazon nationalities (Sion, Secoya, Cofán, Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Shiviar, Wao and Zapara) which includes a teaching model focused on the particular characteristics of these peoples and on the production of teaching materials that include basic alphabets, teaching games for the early school years and children's illustrated dictionaries in indigenous languages. Those efforts were undertaken as part of the Andean Project of Bilingual Intercultural Education for the Amazon Region (EIB-Amaz) with the financial support of the Government of Finland.

10. The government of Pichincha Province, the Directorate for Bilingual Education and private enterprises are promoting an educational package called "Let us learn from the indigenous peoples and nationalities of Ecuador", which includes interactive compact discs for basic education to promote knowledge of Ecuador's cultures and diversity. These materials have been distributed in Spanish-speaking and bilingual schools in the Amazon region and in the Cayambe canton of Pichincha Province.

11. In an alliance between the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas, the Afro Pastoral of the Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference and UNICEF, the Encyclopaedia of Afro-Ecuadorian Knowledge was published to help to raise the sensitivity to Afro-descendant culture of leaders, teachers and communities. This Encyclopaedia is the fruit of several years of compilation and collective development of the memory of Ecuador's Afro-descendants.

B. Promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent

12. At the request of the Government of Ecuador, in December 2009 the Special Rapporteur, Mr. James Anaya, made a three-day visit to Ecuador.

13. The Special Rapporteur held meetings with Ecuadorian organizations of indigenous peoples and State bodies, reviewing the status of such issues as consultation with and the participation of indigenous peoples, the process of dialogue under way between the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the Government, and the process to draft a bill on coordination and cooperation between indigenous justice and ordinary law.

14. The Confederation of Kichua Nations of Ecuador (ECUARUNARI) and UNICEF have been working in recent years to design, discuss and promote the indigenous children's agenda, a teaching and training model for indigenous leaders, bilingual intercultural educators and indigenous boys and girls, intended to promote discussion within communities of the themes of identity, territory, health, education and protection of the country's indigenous children.

15. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been supporting in the three provinces covered 22 environmentally sustainable production enterprises established by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. This has been a participatory process in which the communities themselves have defined the profiles of the projects supported, initiatives that seek to underscore the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and populations which, as a result of discrimination, have been relegated from development processes.

16. The primary objective is recovery of the livelihoods of indigenous populations, protection of natural resources and a new appreciation of all the traditional knowledge related to farming and food production that has been transmitted from generation to generation. The traditional farmers of Chimborazo Province are a living example of how information is passed down. They are seen as wise farmers,

who use biological or astral indicators to plan their activities. Their recovery is one of the main goals of the programme and they are an example that is to be developed in Esmeraldas and Sucumbios Provinces, where there are several indigenous peoples.

C. Redefine development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples

17. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, a Master's degree in public policies, multiculturalism and human rights and a diploma course in intercultural health have been established in order to build the capacities of Government officials in intercultural public policy design and intercultural health. These academic initiatives will be developed by the Government's Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) and will offer high-level training for public officials. The initiatives comply with the constitutional mandate that multiculturalism must be a cross-cutting theme in the country's social, economic and political relations.

18. Under the agreement between the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) and UNICEF, debate and academic development has been promoted in the themes of interculturalism and public policies in the country, with a special focus on the work of local indigenous governments, systematizing their experiences of intercultural matters.

19. The production projects supported by FAO will serve as a model that will provide sufficient information for the preparation of public policies both in small-scale production and in the recovery of traditions and knowledge that help to mitigate the effects of climate change and to promote partnership and small production.

D. Develop strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

20. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Millennium Development Goals report was presented both in Quito and in the cities of Lago Agrio and Riobamba. The report is a useful tool for decision makers because it contains important statistical information on the development situation of indigenous peoples. The report highlights the social gaps that exist in Ecuador and is a starting point for drawing up proposals relating to inclusion.

21. The report was drafted by the inter-agency intercultural theme group and UNDP in coordination with Government institutions, in particular the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage.

II. Has your United Nations country team carried out/supported activities regarding the dissemination and/or implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Please specify

22. The United Nations system strengthened its own capacities in the areas of the knowledge and dissemination of the rights of indigenous peoples. Assistance was provided by UNDP and UNFPA for two of their officials to attend the first course on training of trainers on indigenous peoples' issues, held in Turin.

23. As a follow-up to and practical application of this training, the system officials who had been trained, together with expert Carlos Mamani and the support of the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, organized a two-day training workshop in November for the country team; it was attended by 40 representatives, programme officials and programme coordinators. A similar workshop was organized for officials of the Government of Ecuador, and 43 officials attended. The content of the Declaration was broadly disseminated at those workshops and tools were offered for its application.

III. Can you provide specific examples on how your United Nations country team has contributed to:

A. Eradication of poverty and inequalities of indigenous peoples

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, administered by UNDP and the World Tourism Organization

24. Within the framework of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme and the Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility has supported the selection and development by communities and organizations of indigenous peoples in different provinces of the country of several environmentally sustainable production enterprises involved in cultural preservation. The projects, executed by the communities themselves, permit the construction of sustainable livelihoods and ensure the management and preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

25. In the specific case of FAO, efforts are under way to promote the recovery of indigenous peoples' traditional methods in crop and livestock production, processing and value added, permitting an exchange of knowledge and lessons learned to be used as practices that are environmentally friendly and encourage the preservation of natural resources as the main source of their development.

26. Several of these activities have been conducted under joint projects such as the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve and the Runa Kawsay project that relates to strengthening indigenous organizations and restoring the importance of traditional

products in the high Andean regions of Ecuador, which is being developed in the Chimborazo Province where there is a large indigenous population.

B. Intercultural sexual and reproductive health and maternal health programmes and policies

27. In November, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health and UNFPA, in coordination with the Andean Health Organization, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Regional Inter-agency Task Force for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality, organized an international seminar on interculturality and effective rights in the Andean subregion, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health to strengthen *Sumak Kawsay* (living well). This two-day event, held in Quito, brought together more than 250 officials, experts, leaders, midwives and academics from 14 Latin American countries. Outcomes of the event included the Quito Declaration and a number of recommendations both for Ministries of Health and for international aid agencies, universities and organizations of indigenous peoples.

28. UNFPA supported the preparation of the intercultural health diploma course, which will be held for the first time starting in mid-2010. Its purpose is to strengthen the capacities of Ministry of Health officials at the central and provincial levels so that they can include the intercultural perspective in the services provided.

C. Main mortality reduction initiatives

29. The Ministry of Health received assistance from UNFPA in the development of reproductive health models with an intercultural approach in four provinces: Imbabura, Chimborazo, Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas.

D. Population and development with emphasis on research, data collection, dissemination and analysis, information systems for policy development and monitoring, emerging issues such as migration, trafficking, among others in favour of indigenous peoples

30. The National Commission on Statistics for Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian Peoples received support from UNFPA. The mission of the Commission is to harmonize and reach consensus regarding quantitative and qualitative information on the indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples of Ecuador, and to standardize methodologies for calculating sociodemographic indicators. The most important achievements include the establishment of an office in the National Statistics and Census Institute to operationalize the National Commission on Statistics for Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian Peoples (CONEPIA), one of whose tasks was to draft the questions related to ethnic self-identification for inclusion in the questionnaire of the upcoming 2010 census. For that purpose, several technical and consultative meetings were held with organizations of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples in the provinces of the country to reach agreement on the

census questions. The National Statistics and Census Institute also carried out the experimental test of the census questions.

IV. How has your United Nations country team contributed to the empowerment of indigenous women, organizations and networks in the last three years? Give specific examples, annexing project reports

31. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has held a regional event attended by 213 indigenous peoples in the region to discuss indigenous women's access to indigenous traditional justice. The event took place within the framework of the regional programme "Working to combat ethnic and racial discrimination through the effective implementation of the rights of Latin American indigenous women", and had the support of the United Nations system inter-agency gender and intercultural theme groups in Ecuador. It was attended by women from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico.

32. With the support of UNFPA, Family Care International (FCI), IBIS and Norwegian People's Aid, the women's technical secretariat of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, held the first women's congress of the nationalities and peoples of Ecuador, attended by more than 500 representatives of grass-roots organizations. Women from indigenous peoples and nationalities met for two days to discuss their rights and their problems as citizens. Participants at the event analysed the political and strategic agenda for the women of the peoples and nationalities of Ecuador. That agenda is a guide for the coming years, both within their organizations and to influence the Government's public policies.

V. Please describe major achievements, challenges and gaps regarding programming in support of indigenous communities

33. Achievements in the past year include:

(a) The implementation of the Development and Cultural Diversity, which has boosted the discussion of the themes of inclusion and the rights of indigenous peoples;

(b) The enactment of the Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion;

(c) The drawing up of public policy and interculturality training programmes for public officials to be held in 2010;

(d) The strengthening of intercultural health policies in the Ministry of Public Health aimed at reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples. The policies were debated at the Andean regional level at an international seminar with broad participation by the countries in the region;

(e) The publication and dissemination of the report on the Millennium Development Goals of indigenous peoples;

(f) The planning of the 2010 census, including ethnic self-identification questions.

34. The challenges facing the country include:

(a) Strengthening state institutions. The new Constitution provides that the Equality Councils "shall perform functions in the formulation, mainstreaming, monitoring, follow-up and evaluation for public policies related to gender, ethnicity, ageing, intercultural issues, disabilities and movement of persons, pursuant to the law";

(b) Among the outcomes of the UNDP Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage and CODENPE regarding the provision of technical assistance and the facilitation of opportunities for dialogue to promote institutional innovation in CODENPE for the future National Equality Councils.